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# This Old House

9 SECRETS  
OF  
COTTAGE  
STYLE

p. 82

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for a big charm  
boost, p. 47

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#### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

• Do not stop taking ELIQUIS for atrial fibrillation without talking to the doctor who prescribed it for you. Stopping ELIQUIS increases your risk of having a stroke. ELIQUIS may need to be stopped, prior to surgery or a medical or dental procedure. Your doctor will tell you when you should stop taking ELIQUIS and when you may start taking it again. If you have to stop taking ELIQUIS, your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help prevent a blood clot from forming.

• ELIQUIS can cause bleeding, which can be serious, and rarely may lead to death.

• You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take ELIQUIS and take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, such as aspirin, NSAIDs, warfarin (COUMADIN®), heparin, SSRIs or SNRIs, and other blood thinners. Tell your doctor about all medicines, vitamins and supplements you take. While taking ELIQUIS, you may bruise more easily and it may take longer than usual for any bleeding to stop.

- Get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding:
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  - bleeding that is severe or you cannot control
  - red, pink, or brown urine; red or black stools (looks like tar)
  - coughing up or vomiting blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds
  - unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain; headaches, feeling dizzy or weak

• ELIQUIS is not for patients with artificial heart valves.

• Spinal or epidural blood clots or bleeding (hematomas). People who take ELIQUIS, and have medicine injected into their spinal and epidural area, or have a spinal puncture have a risk of forming a blood clot that can cause long-term or permanent loss of the ability to move (paralysis).

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• Before you take ELIQUIS, tell your doctor if you have kidney or liver problems, any other medical condition, or ever had bleeding problems. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or plan to become pregnant or breastfeed.

• Do not take ELIQUIS if you currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding or have had a serious allergic reaction to ELIQUIS. A reaction to ELIQUIS can cause hives, rash, itching, and possibly trouble breathing. Get medical help right away if you have sudden chest pain or chest tightness, have sudden swelling of your face or tongue, have trouble breathing, wheezing, or feeling dizzy or faint.

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Please see additional Important Product Information on the adjacent page.

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## The Great TOH Giveaway

**\$726,840.12 in prizes!**  
Check out the complete list of  
prizes and products in this issue

### idea file

- before + after: kitchen** A century couple creates the racing, handcut look they had a taste for
- before + after: bath** A gut punch into style, comfort, and convenience to a modest master bath
- before + after: front yard** Storm damage to the exterior is transformed into a colorful, enclosed garden layout
- Photoshop redo** Period homes get inspiring *Queen Anne* style
- looks small, lives large** After a whole house renovation, a cottage emerges with an updated—and expanded—interior and a more intimate
- timeless treasure** This ageless gem is still a "home there forever" look
- 9 secrets of cottage style** Tips from an interior designer that will perk up your home's personality



Cover photograph by ALEX BARTHELEMY  
Styling by KATIE DODD | 800.283.2300

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## THE RIGHT BATHROOM FAN MATTERS

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## Letter FROM THIS OLD HOUSE

### Get something for nothing? You betcha

**W**e've got a long history of helping out here at *This Old House*. Not only have we been aiding homeowners on our flagship TV show for more than a half-decade, the TOH staff has also spent the past 34 years participating in HomeFront, a day-long volunteer effort to help disadvantaged but deserving homeowners restore a little livability to the place they, well, live. A few weeks ago, our staff gathered on a Saturday to help a hardworking great-grandmother in Norwalk, Connecticut, rejuvenate a small dock, install a new vanity and water heater, and replace tired and overgrown landscaping with new shrubs and perennials.

Though such events aren't without the occasional sunburn, blister, or hampered thumb (or, if you're like me, all those), they're great days. And this year it was a bit less painful, thanks to Adair, which not only sponsored the event but also provided school, practical relief in the form of over-the-counter aid to a few folks. For that, we are grateful. You can see pictures of the TOH crew at work on HomeFront day at [thisoldhouse.com/homefront](http://thisoldhouse.com/homefront).

Now, that's another way we like to help out, too, and that's with that issue, the Great TOH Giveaway. Just a giveaway. As it grows. For free.

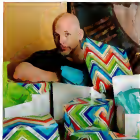
What started out just a few years ago as a modest sweepstakes to win some \$30,000 worth of product has blossomed into a full-blown phenomenon, with hundreds of thousands of people clicking boxes millions of times to get their hands on the goods they need to make their homes a better place. And this year that's \$728,000 in goods, to be exact. Actually, if I were being truly exact it would be \$728,040.12. But you get the idea.

That huge dollar number is a testament to the TOH reader. So thank the manufacturers, suppliers, and service providers that your passion for home improvement that they're anxious to get their products in front of you any way they can.

And we're not talking about trinkets, either. Our terrific long-term partners DeWalt, Ryobi, and Suncoast Windows, for example, are giving away \$75,000 and nearly \$10,000 of product, respectively. American Standard is ready to ship out more than \$53,000 worth of bathroom and kitchen accessories to winners. And there are dozens more products, from Cleary garage doors to TimberTech decking and railings to Unico smart-door HVAC to engineered siding from BuckClad to window treatments from The Shade Store to, my favorite, steam showers from both Steamers and Mr. Steam.

You can win win trips from the American Queen Steamship Company and CrossCountry, which is great because, as we all know, the only thing better than getting into wait for your remodel is being able to take a vacation from the remodel world.

*Scott Orellana*  
SCOTT ORELLANA, EDITOR  
[scott@thisoldhouse.com](http://scott@thisoldhouse.com)



For the editor, the Great TOH Giveaway is the giving presents to lots of readers.





PRESENTS

# Kitchen Solutions

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## Reader mail



**FAMILY STRIKES A DEEP CHORD** with TOH folks, as we saw in the heartfelt responses to the editor's advice to his young son, in his June 2014 column. Plus: One reader looks forward to a project, while another sees her dream remodel come true.

### Home-improvement legacies

As editor Scott O'Connell's Letter From This Old House, June 2014, I'm writing to thank Scott for helping me to realize my three little boys will be adults soon, but they will always be my little men—a difficult thought, but deeply meaningful. Thank you for inspiring me to go over and not knowing how to draw all and to learn in front of them, teach them along the way that mistakes are part of the process, get over the pride of perfection, and enjoy the presence of those little helping hands.

—MAK SETH WOODBRIDGE, CALIF.

My advice to my daughter: (1) Treat a house like it will be your home forever, especially when you know it won't. (2) Owning a house doesn't mean you own the neighborhood. (3) Girls can do anything boys can.

—DAVE HANCOCK, WILMINGTON, OHIO

My father taught woodworking and cabinetmaking for 30 years. His father and grandfather were carpenters. He has a great depth of knowledge. He was the best user in the world and your toughest critic. Recently he helped me build a kitchen island using rough-sawn heart pine from an old barn. I know the cabinetmaker as he was screaming to place the wood down to the surface, but he held back. His restraint spoke volumes.

I am now a teacher of culinary arts. I teach people every day a lot of skills

they can use to create something. I am glad I grew up in a household that respected the skills of a craftsman. It has shaped everything I have done.

—JEFFREY BUTLER, WEST ORANGE, N.J.

### Easy carrier

Thanks for the instructions on the garden-rod case (Issue 1) or Day 1, June 2014, or find it at [thisoldhouse.com/ajg1004](http://thisoldhouse.com/ajg1004). It is something even I can build! Another fantastic issue.

—SUZAN MASON, EFT, MA

### Wish book to dream home

I have been cutting out pages from TOH for years, saving ideas for my perfect house. Last year, my dream came true when my husband agreed we should do a major gut job on our 60-plus-year-old vacation home. His greatest gift to me was letting me make all the decisions. Now I love the house. Everywhere I look I can see that pages out of TOH—the window seat with storage, the coffee-table bar, the deck off the upper master. My husband said, "This is a pretty neat house. You did a great job." So thanks to him for trusting me to rebuild our home and to TOH for the wonderful ideas and suggestions.

—LYNDA SOON, MOREHEAD CITY, N.C.

### HOW TO REACH US

The editors of *This Old House* and *Home Solutions* read letters and include your full name, address and phone number. Published letters are edited for clarity and length.



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# Checklist

AUGUST 2014

Easy ways to  
improve your home  
right now

## 6 FAST FIXES

☐ **Keep compact active:** If dirt gets too dry, the essential bacteria can die. Turn once a week to distribute moisture.

☐ **Maintain dryer ducts:** Lint that gets trapped in ducts poses a risk for fire. Remove much of the dust and vacuum with wet/dry vac.

☐ **Wash window coverings:** Outdoor umbrellas, awnings may have built up on curtains after a season of open windows. Have fabrics washed or dry cleaned.

☐ **Prevent powdery mildew:** This out-crooked fungus is more common in circulation. If spots are already there, pick off affected parts and throw in the trash to avoid inviting spores back into your garden.



☐ **Plant fall crocuses:** The yellow crocus (Siberian) will bloom in 6 to 8 weeks. The spot can be reserved for cooking by removing the bright red stigmas at the center.

☐ **Eliminate pest magnets:** Mosquitoes touching your nose is aching. Use a mosquito net, and toys which create a haven for bugs and mice.

## ☒ Inspect your deck

After months of outdoor entertaining, it's a good idea to give your deck a once-over. Tighten any loose connections, and replace corroded fasteners. Check for split or decaying wood, paying special attention to areas that tend to be damp. Try puncturing soft-looking wood with a screwdriver; if you can drive it in 1/4 inch, the wood may be rotted. Call in a pro or make any necessary repairs yourself right away.



## ☐ Edge garden beds

Maintaining a pocket of air between your grass and mulch will keep weeds from hopping the barrier (and make mowing easier). Finish up garden-bed edges by digging a trench 1 to 2 inches deep using a half-moon edger. But take care not to toss the soil back into the bed—strip pieces of grass could take root.

## ☐ Prep your home for vacation

Going out of town for more than a week? Make sure you don't return to any nasty surprises by planning in advance: **1.** Turn the thermostat up to 85 degrees **2.** to decrease cooling costs. **3.** Turn off the main water valve and turn down the temp of your water heater to a low or vacuum setting. **4.** Throw out perishables in the fridge. **5.** Set lights on timers and have a friend or neighbor collect your mail.



**\$25,000  
in prizes!**

Win \$25,000 in prizes for the best home improvement project of the year. See the full details on the page 17 for details.



Source: The Home Depot, Lowe's, and other home improvement retailers. © 2014 The Home Depot, Lowe's, and other home improvement retailers.

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# home solutions

Edited by Michelle Drouwer

INSIDE CLEVER IDEA GARDENING REDO ADVICE HEALTHY HOME MORE



## New life for old ladders

Combining rustic charm with unexpected functionality, freestanding ladder shelves are a stylish, aryl alternative to traditional bookcases or display cabinets. You can get the look by repurposing old ladders you have on hand or Craigslist finds (ours started at \$9). To make shelves, cut 2x4 planks to size and paint, then secure them by drilling deck screws through the underside of the rungs. If your ladder is tall, slip up the shelf on the short side with blocks or books to level it. Line up your favorite objects, and you've got a display piece that's a step up from off-the-shelf.

PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS/ISTOCKPHOTO.COM







## An office alcove for \$209

Opening up a little-used closet creates a compact work area in a space-starved family home



**BEFORE** The wide closet holds a massive downy stack of books and a bulky storage unit without a lot of wasted space. **AFTER** Opening up the closet helps give the family access to more precious floor space. Painted walls and a sleek finished wire pull fit with the home's Craftsman cottage look. The drawers and two upper cabinets offer plenty of room for stacking school supplies and paperwork.



**TIGHT QUARTERS OFTEN INSPIRE CREATIVE SOLUTIONS.** Just ask Carrie Day, who dreamed up this charming office nook after years of having only a single drawer in which to store supplies and lesson plans for her preschooler. To create a workspace in their small 2014 bungalow in Charleston, Ohio, where an 11th-grader, Carrie, and her husband, Mark, cleaned out a wide closet at the family's dining room and cut away the door to open up the recess. Finding the closet's pipes in rough shape and not wanting to invest the time or money for a redo, Mark used a steel gun to attach 6-inch planks of plywood to the walls, ceiling, and floor. Then Carrie painted them white. Mark added an area rug underfoot, cut to fit the space. To make a perfect size desk from a secondhand dresser he cut out the middle drawers to create knee room. Carrie painted the base white, and Mark added new cottage-style bin pulls and attached the top. After wiring in a new space, Mark installed two wall cabinets made from old cabinet boxes, leftover lumber, and 100-year-old glass taken from their kitchen in previous remodel. To finish the look, he framed the opening using leftover plywood, baseboards, and MDF. Now Carrie says, "It's the one space that I have to myself in the house, and I love it." —KAREN SARKIS

### THE PROJECT TALLY

- Removed the closet wall to make an open nook... \$0
- Covered the walls, ceiling, and floor with plywood cut into planks... \$60
- Added an area rug underfoot, cut to fit the shape of the space... \$15
- Cut out the middle section of a dresser to create a desk. Then painted it and added new hardware... \$75
- Reused second-hand cabinet boxes and attached doors made with lumber scraps and some of the home's original trim... \$1
- Wired in under-cabinet lighting and a vintage look sconce purchased secondhand... \$28
- Painted all the cabinets and stained the desktop... \$40
- Cased the opening of the office alcove using leftover plywood, MDF, scraps, and the wall's old baseboards... \$0

**TOTAL** **\$209**

## Let's make today fun.



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Let's  
Go  
Places

## Busted open, brightened up

Taking down walls cleared the way for a free-flowing space fit for two cooks, two kids, plus party guests

INTERIOR: NATALIE DREW • PHOTOGRAPHY: ALEX MATHIAS

**OPEN UP THESE SPACES** arranged like a barbell and suddenly you've got breakfast room. For 10 years, Michael and Susan Asadi, serious cooks, parents of two young children, and owners of a 1924 house in Seattle, fought a skinny little kitchen that had a breakfast room stuck at one end and a dismal din at the other. The kitchen had an electric cooktop with a downdraft vent embedded in a traffic-stopping peninsula, and not enough storage or prep space.

Finally, Michael, an engineer, tapped his computer-assisted design skills to help solve the problem, deleting walls to either install a door to the basement in the middle. Working with cabinet designer Lisa Wilson and her design-build firm, the couple gutted all three rooms, added insulation, pipes, wiring, and ductwork, and reimagined the layout so that two could cook at once. The din became a dining and homework spot, and the breakfast room an easy walk-in pantry. "The island gives us extra prep space," says Michael, "and when guests arrive we simply wheel it to one side." Room—room for everyone.

**BEFORE** It was a challenge for two people to cook and keep multiple appliances

**AFTER** Opened up at each end, the kitchen has a cleaver zone on one side, prepped cooking space on the other, and an island floating at the middle. Island Credit: E. Givert. Pendant lights Restoration Hardware





• before + after:  
kitchen

\$10,172  
in prizes!

Stop shopping or go to [kitchenaid.com](http://kitchenaid.com) to enter for a chance to win one of four multi-room win-it-all sweepstakes from KitchenAid. See page 14 for details.



A shiny linker rail runs between two rows of upper cabinets. The wall even has a pre-angled countertop with a pot filler and a stainless-steel tile backsplash underwood prep in between. Counting that wall seems OK. The Eden House Range hood. Vent a hood.

## before

The kitchen was small and trapped between rooms.



## after

A 300-square-foot open plan holds the new kitchen, eating nook, pantry, even a mini mudroom.

1) Removed a wall to open the space and allow the eating nook to move to the far end.

2) Reworked the peninsula making way for a small island.

3) Took out a wall and created opening to the breakfast room to create a wide open pantry.



4) Reinforced the area, relocating access to the basement and removing a partition wall next to the old fridge.

5) Added prep space (and a gas line) to serve the relocated countertop.

6) Took out a wall and created opening to the breakfast room to create a wide open pantry.

PHOTO: JAMES HARRIS



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before + after  
bath

## Designed to pamper

A master retreat gains comfort and function with sleek finishes and a streamlined layout BY DEBORAH BALDWIN • PHOTOGRAPHS BY SUSAN GILMORE



BEFORE

**BEFORE** The bath had a cluttered, uninviting feel. **AFTER** Perfect square tiles and a new layout make the same-size space feel warmer and more luxurious, with finishes that go beyond soaking tub and rainfall shower head toward the look we at Delta Chandeliers' Schmitt

A MASTER BATH should help to usher you smoothly out the door in the morning and back into a state of grace by day's end. But when Bridget and Joe Alexander took with busy full-time jobs, cracked open the door to the old bath in their Eden, Minnesota, home, they weren't. "It was dark," Bridget recalls, with a whiplash look that was beginning to fade and perpendicular walls that put the couple at odds. To make the bath more reflective—and useful—they asked designer Paul Kramon and general contractor Ben Que to get well around the space while making it feel more at one with the bedroom. "We wanted to open the door and see a beautiful room," Bridget says. The team widened the doorway to frame a pedestal soaking tub set off by a marble-tile "nag" and a ceiling recessed with silver leaf highlighting a glass chandelier. A double vanity has the run of one wall, and a double shower enclosed in frameless glass and mosaic tile occupies the far corner. Recessed lights and sconces help brighten the room, as do frosted-glass French doors and a soft palette that carries over into the bedroom. "Now we have a spa-like space that's calming and pleasant to be in," says Bridget. "And in the morning we can both be there without getting in each other's way."

• before + after:  
bath



The double vanity offers roomier sink space and clutter-busting storage.  
Vanity: *Arora Furniture Company* (Real Target)

Traditional cabinets with ornate crown molding and hardware-style feet balance the clean, streamlined look of the shower enclosure.  
Door: *Shapiro*

Recessed and recessed lighting over the vanity ensures even light for shaving and makeup.  
Source: *Radio Shack Hardware*



A rug the color of deep-red sandstone blends with the white border around the tub area and breaks up the solid-line rhythm of the horizontal field tile above floor-to-ceiling shower.



A mix of marble and glass tiles in the shower enclosure.  
Shower wall tile: *Crescent*. Tile and floor: *Home Depot*



before

Partition walls and poor lighting made the 790-square-foot bath feel dark and crowded.

after

Removing partitions, doubling the door width, and improving the layout made it easier to move around and enjoy the space.

1) Dorrased space from the hall closet to make room for a double vanity.

2) Replaced two offset vanities with more functional side-by-side ones.

3) Swapped out a large solid door for light-enhancing frosted glass French doors.

4) Replaced the oddly angled tub with a freestanding air-bubble tub.

5) Removed partition walls in favor of a larger frameless glass shower enclosure.

6) Cleared the closet, centered the toilet, and flanked it with ceiling-height cabinets.



Photo: Lisa Winters



homeowner tip  
BRISET ALLEGRA  
EDNA, MAINE

"To amp up the light, we used lots of reflective glass—from the chandelier to the mirrors, shower enclosure, and mosaic tile."



\$55,001  
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## Private and inviting

A revamped facade and lush border plantings deliver street-side charm. BY ANNE E. STRUTTON • PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADRIEN GRUEN

**FAVORITE** outdoor spaces usually have two things in common: comfy seating and a little screening. The front yard at Leni and Fred Wiener's lacked both. Add in heavy shade and the traffic at their New Rochelle, New York, neighborhood, and it's no surprise the couple went decades without using the space. But when a neighbor took over a few old trees, they seized the chance to start over.

"The yard went from total shade to full sun," says Leni, who realized she now had a perfect site for the naturalistic garden she'd always wanted. Robert Welch, a Tarrytown, New York-based landscape designer, pushed Leni's vision even further. His design—a smaller lawn with a circular gravel seating area, outdoor heaters, and a low fence—served the space purpose and privacy as well as beauty. When he suggested extending the house's front loading to tie it in to the garden, Leni was inspired to design a new porch and an art-glass transoms and sidelights. A charcoal-gray roof followed, along with a darker paint palette that shows off the plannings. "The backyard is steeply sloped, but the front is more peaceful," says Leni. "When we close that gate, the space becomes ours. It's where we go to relax."

**BEFORE:** The 1920s Dutch Colonial lacked privacy from a busy street. **AFTER:** Flowers, shrubs and applied fence shield the homeowners from passersby without feeling uninvited. Flagstone forms a rustic path from the street to the front door.



BEFORE

**• before + after:  
front yard**

**RIGHT** "Umbrella" hydrangeas, ivory field dogwoods, and daylilies soften the street side of the fence. **BELOW** The white porticoedown the south side of the house and pavers against the gray siding. (Paint colors) Sherwin Williams's Gibraltar



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**the plan**

A patio with seating, shrub-based plantings and a terrace for privacy turned an unenclosed front yard into an enclosed garden room.

1) Installed gravel seating area with built-in a focal-point sculpture and a curved stepping stone path in the driveway

2) Installed a steel concrete walk for a rustic path to the driveway

3) Reshaped the patio and extended the landing into the garden.

4) Used the reduced lawn area with beds of flowering shrubs and ivy-clad pergolas and ivy-clad pergolas

5) Shaved the house from the street with a natural wood fence engulfed by ivy-clad dogwoods, hydrangeas, and daylilies



Landscape designer Robert Nelson converted this into a fountain by drilling a hole in the back and installing a pump inside. It runs day and night, splashing the soothing sound of flowing water.



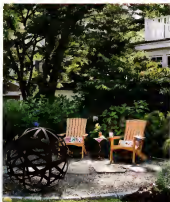
A glass art house in the neighborhood houses a custom iron and matching side lights for the remodeled driveway. Art by artist Giacomo's Shaded Side



**pro advice**

ROBERT NELSON, LANDSCAPE DESIGNER, TARRYTOWN, N.Y.

"I use three-quarter-inch crushed stone for patios and walks because it doesn't slip underfoot."



**ABOVE** Hydrangeas and dogwoods framed by ivy-clad pergolas make a cozy corner for a meal. **LEFT** More shrubs soften the driveway, with the sculpture, which has a central metalwork, creating a focal point in the quiet space. Sculpture: Art by artist Giacomo's Shaded Side



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EXCLUSIVELY AT



## Upbeat risers

Raise your stairs' profile with a five-color palette of related hues

BY DEBORAH BALDWIN • PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY BRIDGEMAN

**THE** A FORMERLY casually seen, the room made the entry of a house. Open the front door and then welcome guest cottage and you glimpse painted stair risers that strike a note as ringy as the keys on a lock's xylophone. Inspired blues, from deep marine to Caribbean turquoise, are interspersed with cool grey and set off by lots of clean white, giving them a sophisticated edge.

During a cottage-inspired redo of the little house, which is a converted garage, interior designer Erin Page first painted the upstairs floor white and connected it to the lower by painting the stairwell white too. She drew colors for the risers from adjacent rooms. "I like to start out with a palette and let it flow throughout the house, but without repeating the colors exactly," Erin says. After playing with large-size color samples at her desk, she chose five shades that were "vibrant but not too bright" and carefully worked out a pattern. Something similar could be done with any color scheme, from warm, natural tones to top trends.

What about well-worn-out all that latex varnish? "I love it," says Page. "I love it." She says with a laugh, referring to those mischievous Mr. Clean sponges. "And tell the kids to leave their shoes by the door." ■

Softer colors in a secondary row help to add a little extra punch





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## Prettying up a period house

Uncovering the front porch and restoring facade details help a Queen Anne-style home assume its former shape

BY DEBBIE HOGGARD • ILLUSTRATION BY TRAVIS GAYNE, INC.



BEFORE

DECADES OF "updates" have stripped many an older home of its architectural integrity. Take this 1912 house in Huntington Station, New York. "The gambrel roof and the construction date suggest that this house was built in late Queen Anne style," says Chicago-based architect John Myrskio. "But the elements that made it distinctive have been restored or covered up over the years."

Paving back the first floor to reveal the porch, which was enclosed at some point, and widening the entry portico would immediately improve the facade's proportions and make it more inviting, says Myrskio. He also proposed some less peppy adjustments: period-appropriate square-cut shingles on the third story with fish-scale shingles above the cornice at the top to add texture. As Myrskio points out, "It's a big project, but these changes could be made in phases, as budget permits."



The style of the entry porch was modified to match the mainline above the third story

### finishing touches

Easy, since details break up the existing flat-towering facade



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Eclectic furnishings and colorful patterned fabrics lend this outdoor room worldly panache. Here's how to create an equally spirited spot at your place. BY WILLIAM SAATHI • PHOTOGRAPH BY TIM BROWN

**IN THE AUGUST HEAT,** there's nothing cooler than sitting down at a shady alfresco hot-dog way—especially when it's lovely as summer ends. Taka, that globally inspired outdoor eatery, just together by California-based interior designer Katherine M. Ireland ("The homeowners wanted it to feel casual, like a taco place in Mexico or Morocco," says Ireland. So she assembled hand-painted pieces from a variety of cultures for the Spanish Mission-style house's covered patio. To add a sense of playfulness—and complement the cheery bohemian—she litigated the dark, head-circled furniture with bright cushions from her own fabric line. Their vibrant colors offer a cheery contrast to the spiral pattern of the banquette and accent seat.

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This fixture with filigree openwork and an antiqued brass finish provides twinkly charm overhead. \$45. [benardbrandon.com](http://benardbrandon.com)



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The design of this parallel holder is modeled after old world decorative wrought iron. \$22 worldmarket.com

■ stenciled furniture

**DIY** To recreate the look of the farmhouse's hand-painted table (left), we used painter's tape to isolate a portion of a large stencil designed inspired by Spanish tile. Then we used it to apply brush-on exterior house paint in yellow onto a rectangular table. Table: [www.creativefringe.com](http://www.creativefringe.com); Barnstone Tile stencil: [bit.ly/midwestdesigns](http://bit.ly/midwestdesigns) **▲**





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## Build a garage pergola

Use milled brackets and pressure-treated lumber to create an elegant canopy over your garage door. **BY DANIEL ROPEL - PHOTOGRAPHS BY SOLIN SMITH**



**0001531**  
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rafters in place.

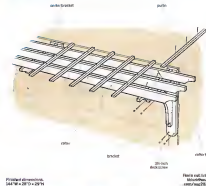


**THE GARAGE DOOR IS THE FIRST THING most of us see when we arrive home, so it better be a sight worthy of admiration. Impossible? Not at all. Perching a pergola upon shapely brackets adds architectural character and intriguing shadow lines to this otherwise utilitarian entry point. Our approach calls for mounting ready-made brackets to the door's casing—and the framing behind it—then attaching an assembly of rafters and panels shaped to complement your home's existing trim. Follow along as *The Old House* senior technical editor Mark Powers guides you through making this decorative structure, which looks as good freshly installed as it would draped in flowering vines.**

Brackets: Part D110 or other Original-style and bracket 303. And Carpenters' style cover support: \$58. [www.therandomhouse.com](http://www.therandomhouse.com)

DAY-TO-DAY  
TIMELINE

**SATURDAY** Make the parts (Steps 1-3)  
**SUNDAY** Build and install the pergola (Steps 3-5)



## TOOLS

clamps  
 combination square  
 2-gallon paint can  
 jigsaw  
 120-grit sandpaper  
 miter saw  
 2x4-inch back brace  
 drill/driver  
 1/4-inch-diameter countersink bit  
 1/4-inch bit  
 bit or driver with  
 flexible shaft  
 caulk gun  
 level  
 tape measure

## MATERIALS

2x4 pressure-treated lumber Get three 12-foot boards for the rafters  
 2x2 pressure-treated lumber Get four 12-foot boards for the purlins  
 24-by-24-inch cedar side brackets Get four  
 28-by-28-inch cedar center brackets Get one  
 3/4-inch-thick square Get 15 pounds  
 2x6 inch-thick square Get 15 pounds  
 acrylic adhesive caulk Get one tube  
 1/4-inch wood plugs Get three plugs  
 solid color acrylic exterior stain Get 1 gallon

## 1 MAKE THE RAFTERS

**A) Design the rafter tail.** Clamp a 2x4 to your work surface. Use a combination square to measure and mark lines across the board 1 and 4 inches from its end. On the 1-inch line, make sawtooth marks 7/8 inches from the top edge of the rafter. Now, pierce the 1-gallon paint can so that its air connects the tick mark's end line point where the 4-inch line meets the rafter's bottom edge. Trace along the can to create the curved detail on your rafter tail, as shown.

**B) Cut the tails.** Follow the line with a jigsaw to shape the tail. Then use the piece as a template to trace the detail onto the uncut ends of the other boards. Cut the marked tails and use one of them to mark and shape the uncut end of the template board. Sand the curved cuts lightly with 120-grit paper.

## 2 MAKE THE PURLINS

**A) Shape the purlins.** Take the first 2x2 and use a combination square to draw a 45-degree line across one corner. 1/4 inch below its top edge. Set the blade of a miter saw to 45 degrees. Slide the piece along the fence with the mark lines up under the blade, and cut it. Trimly to the fence reference line on the saw bed at the end of the purlin. Cut the corner. Position each of the remaining pieces at your reference line, then make the miter, as shown.  
**B) Glue the parts.** Lightly sand the purlins and the three brackets with 120-grit paper. Stir the stain thoroughly and brush a thin coat on all sides of each part. When dry, seal the pieces and allow the stain to cure.

**TIP** Buy brackets the same width as the casing around your garage door to ensure a seamless look and easy installation.



## 3 INSTALL THE BRACKETS

**A) Lay out the holes.** Use a drill/driver fitted with a combination countersink bit to bore a pair of evenly spaced holes near the top and bottom of each of the three brackets. Locate the holes at least 1/4 inch from the edges of the bracket. If the arm of the bracket is in your way, use a 1/4-inch bit, counter with a flexible shaft to drill the countersinks, as shown.

**B) Anchor the brackets.** Apply caulk to the back of the first bracket and hold it in position. Push to the inside of the garage door casing, taking a 1/4-inch bit, drill a pilot hole through one of the bottom countersinks, then drive a 3/8-inch-thick screw through the bracket and casing and into the framing, as shown.

**C) Place the brackets.** Use a level to place the bracket, then drive reference line on the head casing, as shown. Holding the bracket in place, push to the inside of the garage door casing, taking a 1/4-inch bit, drill a pilot hole through one of the bottom countersinks, then drive a 3/8-inch-thick screw through the bracket and casing and into the framing, as shown. Secure the bracket with three more 3/8-inch-thick screws. Squirt a dab of caulk into each screw hole and tap the hole with 1/4-inch wood plugs to conceal the fasteners. Install the other two brackets.





### **A BUILD THE PERGOLA**

**4** **Align the rafters.** Gauge the rafters together on edge and flush them up at both ends. Use a combination square to mark a spot 5 inches in from each end. Then draw a line across the top of the rafters at the mark, as shown, at each end.

**(5) Clamp the assembly.** To position the rafters, subtract their total thickness (24 inches for our three 2x4s) from the depth of the brackets (24 inches) and divide by 4 to get equal spacing on each side of the rafters (4 1/2 inches). Cut spacer blocks to length and wedge them between the rafters. Clamp the assembly together, using scrap as a guide to avoid the fresh stain.

**C | Install the profile.** Subtract the hole thickness of 34 points from the distance between the end marks from Step 4A and divide by 25 spaces. Cut one spacer block to match that number, enter a T-shaped block to set the

**rear overhang** Be sure that the backs of the joists do not extend past the bracket plates. Install the end joists away from the finished work toward the middle, using the blocks to set the spacing, as shown. Drill pilot holes and secure with 2½-inch deck screws.

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## 5 INSTALL THE PERGOLA

**3** **A) Position the pergola.** Measure and mark the midpoint of your pergola on the face of the joist (after With a helper, hoist it onto the brackets. Shift the pergola to align the mark with the middle of the center bracket.

3) **Test the pergola.** Standing on a ladder, clamp the pergola to the brackets, keeping the back of each post angled 45° each from the siding. Use a combination bit to bore angled pilot holes through the sides of the rafters and into the brackets. Use 2½-inch deck screws to test the pergola in place. ■

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## Money



The original 1950s cottage was built by a local contractor and is now owned by a local family. The house is a charming example of mid-century modern design, featuring a gabled roof, a central entrance with a small porch, and a large front window. The house is surrounded by lush greenery and a well-manicured lawn.

# LOOKS SMALL, LIVES LARGE

How to expand a 1950s seaside cottage without sacrificing its charm? Raise the ceilings, add on in back, and create more rooms outdoors.

BY JILL CONNORS, PHOTOGRAPHS BY LAURA NASH

PRODUCED BY DALETTA SPANGLER • STYLING BY KATIE H. GILLES

L

**LOTS OF PEOPLE** fantasize about having a house at the beach—and for some, the ultimate dream is to live there all year long. For the owner of this light-and-airy home in Big Head, New Jersey, what started as a weekend getaway grew into an everyday dream come true.

When he first bought the place, the 1970s one-story cottage was pretty basic: less than 1,200 square feet, with a living room, two bedrooms, a single bath, an eat-in kitchen, and a back porch ringed with old-school lattice-work windows. Located a few blocks from the Atlantic, it had plenty of “jetty-go to the beach” appeal.

It also had a lot of character. The original collapse wallboard had abraded ground water over the years, and the oak floors, absent an underlying vapor barrier, were warping from below.

Clearly, the cottage needed work. But the owner had even bigger plans for the little place. So he called on local general contractor Pat Patterson to not only repair the structure but also add on to it—two more bedrooms, another bath, a dining room, and extra areas for entertaining were on the wish list—to better accommodate family members and friends who come to visit, especially in summer months.

Enter architect Christopher Rice. His mandate was simple: Keep the

**ARND** Seashore-style paint and bleached boardwalk cut a breezy breeze in the entry. New-looker French doors with side-lights channel light into the interior. **GIPPO** TE, 1816s by 150 square feet, the kitchen Pan-A-Spice feel. Berries for small white, color scheme and a wood ceiling. Retro door glass pull up to the table (also which is open below to keep the room feeling airy. **WILL** French-style chairs, white replaces glass windows—colorful



cottage looking modest and authentic from the street—to stay true to its roots and in accordance with strict local building codes—while applying the exterior and increasing its functionality. His clever solution? A C-shaped new addition that would wrap around a private courtyard. The old porch would become a new dining room, open to the renovated kitchen on one side and a new family room on another; the two bedrooms had off the gathering space. Says Rice, “Now the house actually cradles a little from when you step in the front door and wind your way through to the private patio in back.”

To create a more lower-end slope, Patterson gutted the walls and pulled up the warped oak floors, insulating everywhere before laying down new narrow oak planks and adding wallboard. The work also required all-new mechanicals and HVAC throughout. Next, Patterson’s team set out to renovate the old rooms and enlarge the house with an eye toward bringing the outdoors in via generous windows and choice pairs of French doors. Fairly easily, the six-foot-tall set had just enough space to allow for that rear wing. “What’s nice is, it still feels like a small house, but it’s really unique one, with built-in details and decorative touches,” says Patterson.





The extended front landing serves as a parking chair perch.

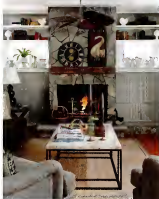
## FLOOR PLAN

The 600 square feet added to the back of the house fits the family room, a bath, and a bedroom. The new dining room is the new back porch.



Today, as you make your way to the kitchen, the midpiece of the house's public rooms, you can practically feel the cottage opening up. During the renovation, Peterson washed the kitchen's 7½-foot ceiling to 15 feet at its peak, a move that enabled the addition of four skylights that invite the space with sunlight: the generous ceiling height made room for dramatically cupped kitchen cabinets, capped with deep-crown molding. An old porch adjacent to the kitchen became the dining room, with six-over-six windows wrapping the outer walls. (The old corner makes room for a passageway from the front yard to the back courtyard.) Two steps lead down into the new family room, a design decision that allowed a generous 10-foot ceiling height without having to raise the roof out front. Since the new-year-round house didn't have a fireplace, a fieldstone hearth was added, flanked by built-in bookcases that hold electronics and string, and window-backed lower display shelves that illuminate the owner's Wedgwood jugs.

Local interior designer Jule Duffy then set out to mold the new section



ABOVE: The new fireplace heartily satisfied the homeowner's request for a not-too-traditional fireplace in the family room. Cabinets on either side conceal media equipment.

COURTESY, JULE DUFFY



LEFT: The interior designer had a local ironworker weld a level ironworker weld the extra-long coffee table into a white-painted wood with marble. The adjoining dining room occupies the larger lot of the old lowered window porch. RIGHT: By lowering the family room floor, the architect was able to achieve a higher ceiling without changing the exterior profile.

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with the old. "We wanted a cohesive look, using lots of natural elements," she says. Handwood floors flow throughout, with wide pine planks in the addition, stained the same tone as the oak up front. Roundwood is a recurring cottage-style theme, with bleached boards covering the ceiling in the front entry, living room, and original bedroom, as well as some bamboo-painted boards over the kitchen ceiling as well as the wainscot and cabinetry in the family room. From the picky spot in the entryway, the color scheme shifts two deeper earth tones as you wade through the house. And a range of earthy textures—sea-grass and sand rugs, a raw-wood stool (the) minimalist ottoman, a shell-encrusted chandelier—play up the seaside locale.

For all the inviting interiors, though, the house's secret jewel is the private courtyard in back, tucked inside the curve of the addition. Landscape designer Joseph Christopher planted a 14-foot-tall arbutus hedge opposite the stone patio, creating a private outdoor room that's ideal for entertaining.





**LEFT:** A bedroom in the original part of the house got a renewed brightness by using the true red and blue-and-white color scheme of the home's vintage style.

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after a day spent on the beach. Expanding into much of the old back yard had another major benefit: a previously maintenance-free lot. Capomano transformed the green space that was left out front by removing old trees that had the house and adding mixed shrub plantings.

While the modern facade hides the rowing home that arrives through those French doors, it also reflects the renovations as a whole. Fazzano left the original scale and nodules intact, so the place still feels in tune with its neighbors. But he took things up a notch style-wise by accenting the exterior with gables that have decorative detailing much like those on nearby Folk Victorian cottages, as well as a pergola, board-and-batten shutters, and an extended front landing that serves as a rocking-chair porch.

Sagestorm finally dealt a devastating blow to much of the area back in 2012 and saw waves rolling down the peninsula street. But, miraculously, the water receded just before it reached the house. In the years since, full-time residents and summer vacationers alike have breathed fresh life into the laid-back beach town, where kids on bikes still have their run of the place, cruising down blocks lined with little cottages like this one, all the way to the ocean. A dreamy encounter, indeed. ■

**ABOVE:** The house's new addition kept the beachy style, when a row of tall windows and a large balcony. The rest of the design team is in style to coordinate modern highlights.

**RIGHT:** White-striped wallpaper and a transforming window make this tiny new bathroom feel larger. The color reflects the owner's passion for



**\$25,925  
in prizes!**

Open this page on a paper with the word "win" and you could win a chance to win a \$25,925 prize (see page 14 for details).



**SHOP THIS STYLE**  
To find furnishings similar to those used in this house, visit the page on the right.

# TIMELESS TREASURE

*Salvaged materials, lavish plantings, vintage collectibles—  
and some sleight of hand—create a new  
garden with old-world character*



by DEBRA PRINZING • photographs by JENNIFER CHEUNG  
produced by COLETTE SCANLON • styling by SUNDAY HENDRICKSON

ABOVE and OPPOSITE: Flowers spill over the sides of weathered wood containers in an unlined flagstone path that now fronts a 1930s house in Southern California.



a

LOOKING FOR  
INSPIRATION  
ON THE WEB  
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**ENVIABLY** breezy, breezy dreamscapes straight out of a free-table book on Tuscany or Provence. But Maia Mirman cultivates her romantic plantings on about a third of her one-acre property in the hills above Los Angeles, home today days, to tomatoes, zucchini, and 12 months of bloom. Fragrant flowering vines scramble up porch posts and trellis, and from somewhere in the distance comes the musical sound of a tinkling fountain. Coffee is served on a weathered stone patio that faces east, cocktail, on another one, oriented due west. The whole place exudes effortless, lived-in character.

And it's just the illusion. Mathis was going for Acting as general contractor and chief visionary, she spent a year carving such a kale of paradise from rustic whose main features were abutted 1950s brick patio with an aging pink-concrete swimming pool and a steep hillside fraught with its own litany of woes, from poor drainage to diseased trees to rat-infested mountains of fry. With the exception of a dozen or so mature native oaks and killer views of the canyon below, virtually none of the landscape you see here existed. Mathis's garden may look like it's deeply rooted in the past, with plenty of worn-around-the-edges patina, but that's an impression created through plenty of thoughtful, smart decisions.

Here, she shares her (totally stealable) tips, tricks, ideas, and inspirations for creating a new garden with a welcoming look and beach-there-forever charm.



## ENHANCE THE ARCHITECTURE

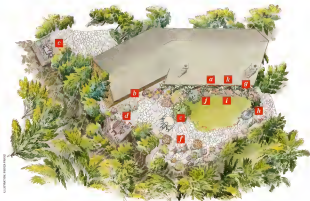
**a, b** | What began as a contemporary house, the Engelen farmhouse fell with the roofline and the ground level below was excavated into a flooring, a mix of three materials: of Amsterdamian origin. The pool's exposed surface and rough limestone pool wall and to the brick wall we connect the house to the garden. The brick-red hue of the new board and bottom side is the result of laying two-layered Moort stenen from the new Moort. The interior is filled with light, airy and airy.



**c |** **Matlin/Morran.** LEFT, on a 34 by 34-foot deck, she sat down with new railings and floor stain. Located at the very rear of the property, the deck (left in A-F) went underground in the tree canopy. The quiet setting is a yellow Matlin and husband Bob feel surrounded by nature (though they sit in the midst of a densely wooded lot).

## THE PLAN

The Marmara longstoped area is positioned as a fully one-acre lot with a steep drop-off on three sides. Removing a post-and-rail julia, and hedges allowed for new garden rooms, a smaller dog-friendly lawn, larger patios, and a second deck overlooking the ocean from the house. A 24,000-gallon cistern will contribute to the site's reduced carbon footprint as well as saving water.





## CREATE COZY DESTINATIONS

**d** | Old gardens, like old houses, often have wings everywhere. Mather mapped out the new petal beds on paper, then (where possible) with spray paint on the ground. Three distinct "rooms" for dining, entertaining, and viewing the landscape are connected by a meandering path. The irregularly shaped redwood deck is 22 by 20 feet along its longest side, with "islands" with leafless Moore's French Birch trees.

**e** | The new retaining wall helped stabilize the hillside. While structurally vital, it also provides continuity that helps connect garden rooms and defines the patio space. The actual wall is cast-in-place concrete block reinforced with rebar. The 12-inch-high yellow wall sits on a 6-inch-deep concrete footing. The varied colors play off the warm shades of the brick-like paving, which also serves as the wall's cap.

**f** | The chippy, shabby-chic benches are exactly the sort of well-loved piece you'd stumble upon in an old garden. It was aged concrete fit for light or—when the scenery pleases—an outdoor table.







9

## SECRETS OF COTTAGE STYLE

Known for her lively, low-key designs, Jane Coslick shares her trademark tips for adding oomph to plain interiors with salvaged finds and buckets of paint

BY DEBORAH BALDWIN / PHOTOGRAPHS BY RICHARD LEO JOHNSON  
/ PRODUCED BY COLETTE SCHULICH / STYLING BY BRIAN CARTER



The secret to Jane Coslick's cottage interiors may have to do with her life as a freighter's wife. But that was never your wife, and today she runs a home but still boasts a marble top, a powder room, a good fire—and a pot for rolling out past dough. "Always prefer a new, not an old, and I've got it all perfect," says Coslick. (For more on the party's latest ideas, see Secret 7.)

Jane Coslick, interior designer and serial renovator, brakes for weather-beaten cottages, cast-iron furniture, sparkly chandeliers, and offbeat art, all of which comfortably coexist in her mind's eye.

Three years ago, she spotted a break-looking brick house on rustic Tybee Island, Georgia, her favorite haunt. Built in 1946, it had small, dark rooms, a hulking fireplace, and the word *barrenness* written all over it. "It was kind of amess," she recalls sweetly. "I just decided to make it more functional for me and the way I want to live"—casualty but efficiently. In a bid, charming place. Working with carpenter Peter Dittmar and landscape designer John Dugger, she gutted the house and its garden shed and remedied them inside and out, lavishing both with colorful paint and quirky finds—like the salvaged window, complete with curtains hung from an old broomstick, dressing up the fence on page 62. A little beachboard here, a little sunlight there, and plenty of cottage-style expertise reflected throughout. Keep reading to draw from Costick's store of great ideas.



SECRET//  
WASH IT  
WITH WHITE

Space-enhancing white paint on walls and ceiling—and some furniture—around all areas of bed, warm rooms. "Keeping it simple visually makes a space larger," Giesek says. Cut flowers and pink pillows soften the dramatic bed during wint, accented by a dark charcoal bed with pretty black rods.



SECRET//  
UNITE MISMATCHED FURNISHINGS WITH COLOR

When a great writer like Cheever made his way into Conklin's life, she began looking for similar people, friendly people. Over time they trickled in—some wicker, some wood, some iron. Spray paint (Holt-Chester's Key Land) and neon (Holt-Chester's) helped her create a self-styled tribe. "Cheever's single fabric for all the customers," says Conklin, "is a mix of textures and the same colors." They add up to create, like his work, to keep it simple and strong.



### SECRET// PUNCH OUT A PASS-THROUGH

Roemer loves opening a window to look out at the world (and down at it). The pass-through Casework introduced here allows art, light, conversation—and plants—to cascade what happens inside out of the cooking fray. "I use a lot of glass windows to open up rooms and improve the flow of natural light," she says. "If you're in the wall down, you have a spot for farnsworth." Here, a counter on brackets has parking for herb pots under each and serving platters above.

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in the middle  
of the room  
and let the  
winner take  
it home.





2015/5/

#### ADD A DOSE OF BEADBOARD

Beaded plywood isn't just for master baths, redefining the house's cottage style. "The panels have 3-inch centers and look like individual boards. They mimic what you normally see on porch ceilings," says Conkole. She painted the mow of her female twins, Benjamin House's Tropical Cubana, the n being teenage nines rolled at a vintage shop, the cabinet migrated from the kitchen, picking up white paint and green-flecked glass knobs in a visit.



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in prizes!**

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2015/5/

#### SHOP THE SALVAGE YARD

Traditionally a kitchen sink has a window, but here that wasn't an option. So Conkole provided cooks and bottle-washers with a "view" by having a glass shop-add mow to a salvaged window. Weather-beaten shutters serve as cabinet fronts, and a vintage doorknob decorated with a piece of fabric, along with cabinet paint matched to the shutters, kept the elements together. Another, larger pair serves in the pantry doors (see decor 1).



2015/5/

#### DON'T BE TOO MATCHY-MATCHY

In the dinner shed, now a guest room with its own smoking chair porch (below), the different fabrics seemed under a shell and that color began to be an organ. "I thought I knew to matching the world today," Conkole declares, adding that it helped they share colors—like the four leaves that take home painting up with white here. The curtains or do not only the lumber filler but also two types of black and white tile that live happily side by side in the kitchen.



2015/5/

#### COZY UP THE PATIO

Multiple gathering spots make a small yard seem spacious. Conkole turned around the view of green by painting the porch shed her own Beach House Blue, put up down porch of storage brick and adding a table and chairs, new-green modern, and a hand-painted sitting in a vintage chair. Now it's a very spot for friends who once thought the shed was to take on the house. "I just knew I could do something with it," she says. And she did. ■

2015/5/

#### PAINT A PLAIN FLOOR

Costal homes are fun to visit. Conkole calls "a vintage man of fun." Here, that includes a wood floor painted blue (1) and a green chair (2). A wooden sign on a wooden stand, a wooden sign on a wooden stand, a wooden sign on a wooden stand, and a wooden sign on a wooden stand. "Art is important, it gives a room life and energy," she says. At a vintage shop, she also finds a wooden sign on a wooden stand, a wooden sign on a wooden stand, a wooden sign on a wooden stand, and a wooden sign on a wooden stand.



<ALL ABOUT>

# Front Entry Lighting

More than just a beacon leading to the front door, exterior lighting helps define the look of a house. With planning and a bit of math, you can put your home's best face forward. BY KATE KRAMER

DRIVE DOWN any residential street, and we'd bet your eye is instantly drawn to the house with the inviting, well-lit front door. Done right, exterior entry lighting makes the most of what you've got, complementing your home's architecture, increasing security, and helping guests recognize their way to the front landing.

That said, it can be a real challenge to select the perfect fixture. Just stroll down the lighting aisle of any home store, and it's easy to be overwhelmed by the countless styles, finishes, bells and whistles—and that's before you look online.

Start by evaluating your space to determine the type of fixture (or fixtures) that best fits it, whether wall-mount, ceiling-mount, or, in very large rooms, a combination of the two. In every case, the overall goal is to cast a wide pool of light that illuminates the entry, banishes dark corners, and casts a warm glow that's easy on the eyes, says San Francisco-based lighting designer Judy Pinchard. On the following pages, we'll explain how to determine the correct size, placement, style, and finish of your front-door lighting. Follow these steps to make your house the one that says "welcome home."

**ANATOMY OF A LIGHT**  
Below are the basic elements of an exterior source and their usual features and installation advice.



## VITALS

### WHAT DOES IT COST?

There's an option for every budget, but expect to pay \$250 and up for quality fixtures made from solid metal. Hand-sunglazed fixtures

### DIY OR HIRE A PRO?

Changing a light fixture is a relatively simple job involving no electrical work. However, for a more basic or extensive job, call an electrician. For that, you may want to go pro.



### MAINTENANCE?

When replacing a fixture, you may need to replace the wiring. Most fixtures can be cleaned with a damp cloth. Regularly applying a thin coat of wax to exposed metal parts helps protect against oxidation.

### HOW LONG DOES IT LAST?

Warranties range from 30 days to 5 years. For some lights made from solid copper, the 50-year warranty is not industry average.

### LEFT: A pendant that casts a wide pool of light provides primary illumination. Side

fixtures are secondary light sources that add depth to design. Each fixture is shown in a separate photo. See the full list of fixtures on page 100. See the full list of fixtures on page 100. See the full list of fixtures on page 100.

## Design math

Most folks choose front-door fixtures that are too small and hang them too high. Follow these guidelines to get right-size lights in the right place for your entry setup

One-quarter the height of the door plus wiring



### DOUBLE SOURCES

Door-hanging lights, placed 6 to 12 inches from the door casing, are a natural choice for symmetrical entries. A 13- to 15-watt LED bulb (rated 60- to 70-watt equivalent) per fixture is usually enough.



One-third the height of the door plus wiring



### SINGLE SOURCE

Where space is limited and doors have small overhead area, fixtures with a single 13- to 28-watt LED bulb (60- to 70-watt equivalent)—one surface, hanging just above the door—add for a well-lit view when meeting guests.

One-quarter the height of the door plus wiring



### FLUSH-MOUNT

This is an ideal solution for entries with low ceilings, screened or storm doors, and porches open to wind and rain. Use a 23- to 40-watt LED bulb (60- to 125-watt equivalent) or multiple bulbs with the same total wattage.



One-fifth the height of the door plus wiring



### PENDANT

A hanging fixture lights a high-ceilinged entry, but use where it's windy. With a single glass, use a single 23- to 40-watt LED bulb (60- to 125-watt equivalent), for clear glass, use several smaller bulbs with the same combined wattage.

## Deciphering UL ratings

Light fixtures sold in the U.S. should carry an Underwriters Laboratories (UL) rating on the label that indicates what kind of location they can be used in. Dry-rated lights cannot be subjected to excessive moisture and should not be hung outdoors. Wet locations vary for those that are damp- and wet-rated. The difference between the two is in the construction. UL-rated fixtures for damp and wet locations use different combinations of door bolts, seals, and protective gaskets to prevent water from accumulating on live wires and other electrical parts. Select the right fixture rating based on your entry's level of exposure.

**Damp-rated** Suitable for sheltered porch areas that are protected from rain—even during storms—and from excessive moisture, such as salt air.

**Wet-rated** Necessary around doors fully open to the outdoors, where rain, snow, and heavy fog or salt air can come into direct contact with the fixture.



## GOOD, BETTER, BEST

While these fixtures look identical—and have workings of similar quality—upgraded materials and construction add to the cost



### GOOD

**PRICE RANGE** \$100–\$1300

**BASE METAL** These basic fixtures are usually made of inexpensive steel sheet metal which can be easily bent around wires and welded.

**FINISH** May be spray-painted with exterior-grade enamel and/or weather-resistant powder coating. Its finish wears, exposed steel surfaces will rust and eventually rust.

**GLASS** This is usually clear, with etching.

Shown: Portland, Oregon, Outdoor 2-Light Steel Lantern, \$60, lowes.com

### BETTER

**PRICE RANGE** \$150–\$200

**BASE METAL** Typically made of heavy steel, finished with powder-coat paint that is rust-resistant.

**FINISH** May involve several layers of sprayed or hand-applied color. White aluminum can oxidize. It shows as a brown-rust stain over time.

**GLASS** Options include decorative beveled or etched glass.

Shown: Quorum, Monterey 2-Light Outdoor Steel Lantern, \$200, lightingdirect.com

### BEST

**PRICE RANGE** \$250 and up

**BASE METAL** Generally made of brass or cast iron, often of copper—cast from an intricate mold or constructed by hand. Details define the piece.

**FINISH** Expect long-lasting electroplated and hand-applied, multilayer finishes. Lacquered brass resists oxidation for years. Polished or etched glass, anodized brass, and copper last for decades.

**GLASS** Decorative options may include double beveled or etched glass.

Shown: Lancaster 2-Light Steel Lantern, \$250, anallighting.com

## UP

### GET SOME PERSPECTIVE

Not sure how a fixture will look once you take it out of the showroom and install it at home? Before putting the trigger on your purchase, double-check that it follows the guidelines for scale on the opposite page. Then make a mock-up of your selection. Cut cardboard to the size and shape of the light and affix it to the house near the door. Back off and take a look from the bottom of the driveway or the middle of the street to be certain it looks right.

## Get the right look

Consider the style of your house when shopping for entry fixtures. Use our guide to light the way to ones that will enhance your home's architecture



NOTE: Mini images shown are not to scale. For more information, visit [www.houzz.com](http://www.houzz.com)

**1. COFFIN LIGHT** For simple exteriors, coffin-shaped details, such as lanterns, are ideal. Coffin-shaped lanterns look elegant, glass that isn't a soft glow. Shown: Sea-Bull Lighting, Antique Coffin Light Outdoor Lantern, \$125; [seabulllighting.com](http://seabulllighting.com)

**2. TUDOR REVIVAL** A house with varied textures, stone walls, or a sharply pitched roof calls for medieval-inspired lighting, often featuring hammerhead motifs and stained glass. Shown: Mils Creek Lighting Outdoor Lamp, \$125; [milscreeklighting.com](http://milscreeklighting.com)

**3. ART AND CRAFTS** Houses with angular profiles and copper roofs are ideal for a lighting style that often dates from the early 20th century. Shown: Quoizel Holloway 1923 Outdoor Pendant, \$250; [quoizel.com](http://quoizel.com)

**4. MODERN** Unadorned houses fit the style, such as outdoors and Cape Cods, were often lit by copper lanterns. Modern lighting is often made of metal, with a simple design. Shown: Delta P10 Lantern, \$200; [delta.com](http://delta.com)

**5. TRANSIT** White lantern-style lights are often used on small, white houses. One common example is a lantern with a white lantern-style lantern. Shown: Sea-Bull Lighting Outdoor Bulbs, \$100; [seabulllighting.com](http://seabulllighting.com)

**6. MODERN REVIVAL** Detailed fixtures, such as lanterns or glass lanterns, are often used in the form of lanterns. Shown: Quoizel Holloway 1923 Outdoor Pendant, \$250; [quoizel.com](http://quoizel.com)

**7. MODERN** Entry lights with minimalist, unadorned lanterns are often used in the form of lanterns. Shown: Quoizel Holloway 1923 Outdoor Pendant, \$250; [quoizel.com](http://quoizel.com)

**8. CLASSICAL** Sculptural and statement-making, these pieces work well on the exterior of a house. Shown: Quoizel Holloway 1923 Outdoor Pendant, \$250; [quoizel.com](http://quoizel.com)

**9. MODERN** An elaborate, elegant entrance will benefit from lantern-style lanterns. Shown: Quoizel Holloway 1923 Outdoor Pendant, \$250; [quoizel.com](http://quoizel.com)

## PICK YOUR FINISH

Polished or matte. Fancy or informal. These finish options offer a wide range of aesthetics and durability



**POLISHED BRASS**—Copper is polished or plated over another base metal, but low-quality lights are made of brass. It's not as durable as copper, but it's a good choice for a classic look. Shown: Quoizel Holloway 1923 Outdoor Pendant, \$250; [quoizel.com](http://quoizel.com)



**AGED BRASS**—Often polished or plated over another base metal, aged brass is a good choice for a classic look. Shown: Quoizel Holloway 1923 Outdoor Pendant, \$250; [quoizel.com](http://quoizel.com)



**POLISHED BRASS**—Usually polished or plated over another base metal, polished brass is a good choice for a classic look. Shown: Quoizel Holloway 1923 Outdoor Pendant, \$250; [quoizel.com](http://quoizel.com)



**POLISHED METAL**—Generally a type of metal, polished metal is a good choice for a classic look. Shown: Quoizel Holloway 1923 Outdoor Pendant, \$250; [quoizel.com](http://quoizel.com)



**MATTE BLACK**—Like polished metal, matte black is a good choice for a classic look. Shown: Quoizel Holloway 1923 Outdoor Pendant, \$250; [quoizel.com](http://quoizel.com)



**COPPER**—Copper is polished or plated over another base metal, but low-quality lights are made of brass. It's not as durable as copper, but it's a good choice for a classic look. Shown: Quoizel Holloway 1923 Outdoor Pendant, \$250; [quoizel.com](http://quoizel.com)



## Gaslights

Before electric lights became widespread in the 1880s, gas lighting was the norm. Today, whether for historical accuracy or for the atmospheric glow they impart, these fixtures are popular once again. They come configured two ways: as "gas mantle," where the gas illuminates a wire- or ceramic-fiber cloth for a steady white light (equivalent to a 50- or 60-watt bulb), or as "open flame," a softer candlelight flicker similar to a 25-watt bulb. Keep in mind, fixtures are pricey, starting at \$600. And make a gas hookup, check local codes for requirements. Shown: Thea Associates, \$750; [theaassociates.com](http://theaassociates.com)

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## Ask THIS OLD HOUSE

INSIDE  
UNEVEN WALKWAYS/ROUGH WALLS  
/STEEL STUDS/RETROFIT AC/MORE

**Q** We have a pile of dirt and wood chips from grinding out an oak stump. Is there a way to turn it into good compost?

—HEIDI KELLY HOUSTON

**A** Yes, you can, with a little patience and the right mix of ingredients in your compost pile. Get a wheelbarrow and move all the chips to an out-of-the-way location on the ground. Then, for every three loads of chips, mix in one load of grass clippings, along with coffee grounds and scrap fruits and vegetables from your kitchen. Keep the pile moist and turn it over regularly. In three to six months, you should have rich black compost.

—ROBIN COOK  
TOP LANSING  
JULIE WILSON

46  
tips, tricks, and  
answers to  
your home-  
improvement  
questions

PHOTOGRAPH  
BY DAVID AVIGAR

JUNE 17, 2011 [www.fox.com](http://www.fox.com) 71

Our cost  
of veteran  
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The bluestone walkway I dry-laid five years ago has settled and shifted, and water pools on it when it rains. What's the secret to rebuilding a walkway that will last?

— ПОДПИСАНО: А. П. БОДЫН 43



**NOODLE COOK REPLIES:** The key to a long-lasting walkway of any sort is a good base, one that's firm yet porous enough to allow water to percolate through. A base that doesn't hold water won't heave and settle when the ground freezes and thaws, or fairs poorly after rains. You'll have to dig out the existing base and put in a new one. Here's how to go about it:

First, remove and set aside the access covers. Then lay a line along the edges of the path to guide your digging. If it's a straight walkway, use Mason's line for a curved one, use garden hose. Next, dig down between the edges, at least 6 inches below grade. You want to get rid of all the loamy material that holds water like a sponge; it has no business being under a walkway.

With the excavation done, build up the new base in layers. First comes a 3-inch layer of washed No. 58 crushed stone, tamped by hand or with a plate compactor. On top of the crushed stone, add a 1½-inch-thick setting-bed slurry, made by mixing stone dust and water to support the paver stones. Line the edges of the walkway with 3-inch-wide strips of steel edging to create a barrier against soil and roots. The final layer is the bluestone itself, poured into the setting bed with a rubber mallet until each stone is level and even with an neighbor.

When you're done, your walkway

will be safe and attractive and should hold up for many years to come.

### In need of new cabinet hardware

The beautiful cabinets in our new house are poorly painted and have diagonally mounted handles. I'm going to strip and refinish the cabinets and install new pulls. How do I hide the old screw holes?

—CLARENCE STURGEON  
CLARET, 57° 2' N 105° 30' W, 1943



## What is it?

Brush holder

Paint-bucket handle

Roller cleaner

**East India**

**SALES**

**WORM ABRAM REPLIES:** Those holes will be easy to hide with a paintable wood filler, so I would concentrate on repairing your cabinets. Otherwise, disguising holes is more of a challenge because it's not easy to make an invisible repair in wood with a clear finish—even for a pro furniture restorer. But if you want to keep the existing doors and use a clear finish, here are a few options.

You might be able to find metal backplates—or pulls with an integral plate—that are big enough to cover the old screw holes. These plates could really dress up your cabinets and protect the area around the pulls from getting dirty. But you may find that the holes are often so much that a backplate won't be wide enough to cover them.

You could try filling the holes with a putty stick that closely matches the color of the finished wood, but I suspect that when you remove each old pull, you'll run the impression left by the base of the pull. Putty sticks don't work well on dented wood, so in this case I'd drill out each impression with a broad-point bit and fill the new hole with a plug made of the same wood as the cabinet. Apply a small dish of glue to the hole, ready to use the plug.

nearly flush to the surface, and wipe away the excess glue. When the glue dries, sand all the plugs flush, then refinish the cabinets.

### Rough plaster

The former owner plastered the kitchen walls with a coarse, haphazard texture that looks really out of date. Is there any way to make the walls smooth?

— 360 — 中國社會主義思想史論 第三編 第四章

**TOM SILVA REPLIES:** Smoothing walls is certainly something you can do yourself, but you're in for one very dirty, messy job.

To get started, you'll need a gasket maker with a vacuum attachment, a vacuum with a paper filter to capture the dust, and a pull scraper with a carbide blade to remove the worst of the ridges. To keep the dust out of the rest of your house, tape plastic sheeting over the kitchen's downspout and place a box fan in one of its windows to direct dust outside. And wear a well-fitted mask.

Starting near the ceiling and working down, knock off the thick outcrops with the pull scraper. Then connect the palm sanders to the vacuum and grad away with 80-grit paper until the walls are fairly smooth.



It's possible to take the texture off a wall like this and make it smooth, but the expense for both of a window.

Don't sand too deeply; you want to spare the surface just beneath the texture. Switch to 150-grit for a final once-over.

That wraps up the nastiest part of the job. Now, vacuum the walls and speed's this layer of your compound over them, top-to-bottom, to hide any remaining imperfections. (If your troweling skills aren't up to snuff, consider having a pro do it—cost: the walls for you.) Whenever you compound in dry, sand it lightly with a 220-grit sanding screen on a pole sander, sweep the walls down, then prime and paint.

Steel studs or wood?

✎ I'd like to build some partition walls in my basement, and I'm thinking about using steel studs. What are the pros and cons of

—KIP HENNING, ST. LOUIS

**TOAM SELVA REPLIES:** You may not have a choice, if your city requires steel truss to meet the fire code. But if it allows both wood and steel, here are some things to consider.

For starters, there's not a big price difference: The 23-gauge galvanized steel used in partition walls is about 20 percent more expensive than wood. But metal does have advantages that



QUESTION  
OF THE  
MONTH

2009

**How can we cool the room over our garage in the summer and warm it in the winter? No space heaters or window AC units, please!**

—NADINE DWYET, WILLIAMSBURG, VA.

**EDWARD TRETHEWEY REPLIES:** Sounds like you need a mini split heat pump, which provides cooling and heating fairly unobtrusively without using ducts. It pulls the refrigerant from an outdoor condenser directly to a wall-mounted air handler that blows hot or cold air into the room. Because there are no ducts to rebolt, the system is simple for a pro to install. And it provides excellent dehumidification, great for mold.

and great efficiency. Need to adjust the temperature? Turn the unit off? Just use the remote control.

A single air handler can heat or cool up to 1,000 square feet, depending on the climate and system size. (In heating mode, it fans out down to about 13 degrees F, not a problem where you live.) For larger spaces, up to four independently controlled indoor units can connect to one condenser, for the ultimate in zoned comfort.

**YOU  
CAN  
WIN IT!**  
See page 106

enough to higher price. Besides being fire- and water-proof, it also doesn't hold the weight of wood, so you can stuff a station wagon full of steel studs and not worry about warping the suspension. Steel beams of non-handled, but it won't warp like wood, and it's free of knots and the other defects that plague sawn lumber, so you don't have to go poking through piles to find the good pieces.

Compared with wood, steel makes up lucky-ups. You anchor U-shaped tracks to the ceiling and floor, cut the studs to length with metal snips, and set them plumb in the track's channels every 16 inches. Drywall and fine-thread drywall screws, jammed into the studs and tracks on both sides of the wall, hold everything together.

That said, wood studs do have their place. Wood-framed walls feel solid and sound more solid than steel-framed ones, they can bear a load, and you can sit on them. Toss on steel-stud walls but to be attached with cross-brace screws, which are slower to install, leave bigger holes to fill, and are more likely to cause splits than finishing nails. Want to hang a door in a steel-framed wall? The opening has to be lined with wood studs for mounting the hinges and receiving the strike plate.

In short, either material can make a fine wall. Choose the one that best suits your needs.

**COST** \$2,345 for a 24,000-BTU system, shipping and installation not included.  
**TIME** 3 hours  
**SKILL** 1/4 difficult. Installation requires a qualified contractor.

## Ask THIS OLD HOUSE

Go to [thisoldhouse.com/ask](http://thisoldhouse.com/ask)  
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Mark Pauerbach  
of Arctic Mechanical,  
in Port Chester,  
New York, uses the  
remote to check  
the airflow from  
the indoor unit.

**1) Install the condenser.** The unit should go in a shaded location outside the house where it can have at least 4 inches of clearance behind it and 20 inches of clearance above and in front of it. The 175-pound unit can be mounted on brackets fastened to the wall, as shown, or bolted to concrete blocks resting on the ground.



**4) Set up the condenser.** The outdoor unit is connected to the control box from the indoor unit and to a grounded power cable leading to the breaker panel. Then the ends of the refrigerant lines are fastened to the condenser with flare nuts, as shown. Flare nuts are also used to join these lines to the ones on the indoor unit.

**2) Locate the air handler.** It mounts on an exterior wall no more than 33 feet from the outdoor unit, at least 24 inches below the ceiling and 3 feet from a TV. First, the mounting plate is screwed to the studs, as shown. At the plate's lower right corner, the installer drills through the wall with a 3/4-inch hole saw. Outside, a connecting hole is drilled 1/2 inch below the one inside.



**5) Slide the lines.** A flexible channel is screwed to the ceiling joists; the lines condense here, and condensation will drip into the drain. After the hose is checked to make sure it drains freely, the end of the hole sleeve is sealed with silicone to prevent water infiltration. Then the channel is capped, as shown.

**3) Mount the air handler.** With the cover off, the control wires, refrigerant lines, and outdoor wire drain hose are attached to the unit and taped together, and a protective device is fastened to the hole in the wall. The unit is hooked up without its fins being touched, and the taped ports are fed through the sleeve, as shown. The unit then accounts for the plate.



**6) Pump and cover.** A pump manifold and a vacuum pump are hooked up to the refrigerant lines to detect leaks and dry the lines as refrigerant is pumped into them. The last step is to put the cover on the air handler, as shown. The system is then ready to be tested and cool.

PHOTO BY JAMES MOORE FOR T.O.H.





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Ask THIS OLD HOUSE



## Norm's tricks of the trade

**I need to install an interior wall in a finished basement. Can I build it first and then tip it up?**

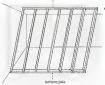
—PAUL DELARUE, ELKRE, KANSAS

**A** That's the way I'd do it. But there's a problem. When a wall is built to fit precisely in a space and you tip it straight up, the top plate will collide with the ceiling before the studs come into place. You could make the wall a little short and then slide it into place, but here's a trick that overcomes that issue.

**1) Frame the wall.** Mark the floor and ceiling where you want the wall to stand. Measure the ceiling height, subtract 3 inches (the combined thickness of the top and bottom plates), and cut the studs to that length. Cut the plates to length, lay them face to face on the floor, and mark both edges every 36 inches. Slide the studs between the plates at your marks, then glue the two 36-inch-thick plates together and nail the ends of the studs.



**2) Tilt and nuke.** Set the wall's bottom plate next to the mark on the floor and tilt the wall up. As it meets the ceiling, nuke the wall slightly away from the adjacent wall. This turns it into a parallelogram, reducing its height enough to get you the clearance you need. Once the plates are in their final spots, push the studs plumb. The wall will snug up to the ceiling just right, ready for you to fasten the plates to the floor and the ceiling joists. ■



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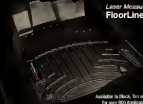
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